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FLORENCE E. WHEELER, LIBRARIAN

October 23, 1920

American Numismatic Society,
156th St. & Broadway,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

We have just received a legacy of about twenty five hundred coins, and we now face the problem of a safe and proper method of arrangement for exhibition.

We have been troubled by petty thefts, and whatever we do with these coins we must consider the possibility of theft. As I have no idea where to turn for information in regard to cases, I am appealing to you for suggestions. If you can tell us what we should have, and the names of any firms making such cases, we shall be most grateful for your interest.

Thanking you, I am,

Very truly yours,

Florence E. Wheeler

Librarian

October 28th, 1920.

Miss Florence E. Wheeler, Librarian,
Leominster Public Library,
Leominster, Mass.

Dear Madam:-

The question of proper cases for the exhibition of coins is always a troublesome one, and I must confess that even in our own Museum, devoted entirely to such an exhibition, we have never quite satisfactorily solved the problem. We have, however, given up every effort to show both sides of the same coin, and are now using a flat case with a glass cover, the cover being about four inches from the surface upon which the coin rests. On the whole I think some arrangement of this sort is really the most satisfactory without going to a very considerable expense.

Ordinary tables could be used by having them equipped with glass covers. It is well to have the coins themselves rest upon some soft material, such as felt, but care must be taken that whatever they rest upon has not in any time in its process of manufacture been treated with sulphur as this will utterly destroy copper coins and seriously damage those of silver.

May I also add that it is very essential in caring for coins that they should be cleaned only by an expert as the slightest abrasion of the ordinary surface greatly lowers their value from a numismatic standpoint.

I am sorry that I am not able to give you any more satisfactory reply to your inquiry, but shall be glad to serve you in any way possible in the future.

May I ask you if it would be too much trouble to give me a general idea of what is in the collection you have received? We are very anxious here to have a rough idea of the coin collections available for public study

in this country.

Very truly yours,

Assistant to Curator.